

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this Application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for managing the operation of an apparatus for the reaction of gas phase oxidation while the apparatus is in trouble, characterized by comprising the step of stopping the operation of said apparatus exclusively when the value of the concentration of a gas obtained by calculation based on the flow rate of the gas at the inlet port of the relevant reactor and the value measured by analysis with a gas analyzing instrument both deviate from the relevant preset ranges.

2. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said stop-step of stopping of the operation is effected by comprises the steps of causing the concentration of a raw material gas and the concentration of oxygen at the inlet port of the reactor to be automatically calculated by an inlet gas concentration calculating device on the basis of the material balance using the measured values of flow rate, pressure and temperature at various points, and the fixed input values depended depending on the operation conditions and causing the consequently calculated concentrations to be rated with the object of determining whether or not they fall in the range between the upper limit values and the lower limit values of the preset concentrations.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 2, wherein the raw materials supplied to the reaction device are an unsaturated hydrocarbon and a molecular oxygen-containing gas.

4. (Previously presented) A method according to any of claim 3, wherein said unsaturated hydrocarbon is an unsaturated hydrocarbon of 2 - 4 carbon atoms.

5. (Previously presented) A method according to any of claim 3, wherein said unsaturated hydrocarbon is propylene or isobutylene.

6. (Previously presented) A method for the production of (meth)acrylic acid by the gas phase oxidation of an unsaturated hydrocarbon with a molecular oxygen-containing gas in accordance with a method for managing the operation set forth in claim 1.

7. (Previously presented) A method for the production of (meth)acrylic acid by the gas phase oxidation of an unsaturated hydrocarbon with a molecular oxygen-containing gas in accordance with a method for managing the operation set forth in claim 2.